

REMARKS

The application has been carefully considered in light of the Office Action dated May 17, 2005. Claims 24, 26, 30 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 41, 51, 53, 54 and 56 to 59 are pending in the application, of which Claims 24, 31 to 33, 40, 41, 51, 58 and 59 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 24, 26, 27, 29 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 41, 51, 53, 54 and 56 to 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,718 (Hiraike '718) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,693 (Hiraike '693).

The present invention concerns management of fonts by a font-name unit. The font name unit downloads font data to a plurality of printing apparatuses.

Amended independent Claim 24 is directed to a host computer that communicates with a plurality of printing apparatuses via a network. The host computer comprises a reference unit adapted to refer to font registration information that includes information specifying at least one font registered in each of the plurality of printing apparatuses; a font registration unit adapted to download font data by a font name unit to any one of the plurality of printing apparatuses for registration; a management unit adapted to retain the font registration information and irrespective of a printing process, indicating the font name unit font data downloaded to each of the plurality of printing apparatuses by said font registration unit; and an instruction unit adapted to issue a delete instruction to any one of the plurality of printing apparatuses to delete the font name unit font data that corresponds to one of the fonts discriminated based on the font registration information referred to by said reference unit.

In contrast, Hiraiké '718 and Hiraiké '693 disclose downloading of font data corresponding to character trains required to print a document from a host computer to a printer. Hiraiké '718 and Hiraiké '693 also disclose deleting unnecessary font data for decreased memory capacity. Hiraiké '718 and Hiraiké '693, however, neither disclose nor suggest registering or deleting the font data by a font name unit.

Furthermore, Hiraiké '693 discloses registering and deleting of font data by a character code unit. (Hiraiké '693, Figs. 5, 7 and 17). In Hiraiké '693, the registering and deleting processes are executed upon printing. Hiraiké '693 neither discloses nor suggests that the font data management is executed irrespective of a printing process as in the present invention.

In light of the deficiencies of Hiraiké '718 and Hiraiké '693 as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 24 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 33 and 51 are method and computer program claims respectively corresponding to host computer Claim 24, and are believed to be allowable over Hiraiké '718 and Hiraiké '693 for reasons substantially similar as discussed above in connection with Claim 24. Additionally, independent Claims 31, 32, 40, 41, 58, and 59 include features substantially along the lines as those discussed above in connection with Claim 24. Accordingly, Claims 31, 32, 40, 41, 58, and 59 are believed to be allowable for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with Claim 24.

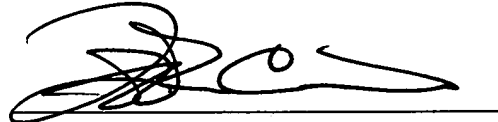
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of

the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', is written over a horizontal line.

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